What is claimed

1. A flame retardant metalized fabric article comprising:

    a) a polymer fabric substrate having a reverse side and an obverse side;

    b) a conductive metal layer on one side of the substrate; and

    c) a flame-retardant coating intermediate the conductive metal layer and the polymeric fabric substrate.

2. An article as in Claim 1 having an Underwriter Laboratories very thin material (VTM) vertical burn test rating of zero.

3. An article as in Claim 1 having a surface resistance of less than one ohm/sq.

4. An article as in Claim 1 wherein said flame-retardant is applied directly to only said obverse side of said polymer fabric substrate.

5. An article as in Claim 1 wherein said flame-retardant comprises a film-forming carrier and a halogenated or non-halogenated flame-retardant additive uniformly distributed in the carrier.

6. An article as in Claim 5 wherein said flame-retardant comprises a layer about one mil thick.

7. An article as in Claim 5 wherein said flame retardant additive is alumina trihydrate.

8. An article as in Claim 1 wherein said metal layer is a vapor deposited metal layer of about 3000Å.

9. An article as in Claim 8 wherein said metal layer comprises a first adhesive metal layer applied directly to said flame-retardant layer, a second conductive metal layer and a third abrasion resistant surface layer.

10. An article as in Claim 9 wherein said adhesive metal is a 100 to 250Å thick layer selected from the group consisting of Nichrome® alloy, chrome, Inconel® alloy and titanium.

11. An article as in Claim 9 wherein said conductive metal is a 2000Å to 3000Å thick layer of a conductive metal selected from the group consisting of copper, gold, silver and platinum.

12. An article as in Claim 9 wherein said abrasion resistant surface layer is a 100Å to 250Å thick layer selected from the group consisting of nickel, aluminum, iron, tin or zirconium, Inconel®, Nichrome® and carbon.

13. An article as in Claim 1 wherein said fabric is a woven or non-woven rip-stock fabric selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester and acrylic fabrics.

14. An article as in Claim 1 including a flame-retardant coating applied directly to both said reverse and obverse sides of said polymeric fabric substrate and said metal layer is on only said obverse side.

15. An article as in Claim 4 wherein said flame-retardant comprises melamine or neoprene.

16. A conductive metalized flame-retardant fabric article comprising:

    a) a woven or non-woven polymeric fabric;

    b) a flame-retardant coating applied directly to a surface of said fabric, said coating comprising a flame-retardant material uniformly disposed in a film forming polymeric liquid wherein said liquid is applied directly to one surface of said fabric and is dried, cured or polymerized *in situ* to form a coating about one mil thick on said fabric surface;

    c) a vapor deposited conductive metal coating applied to said flame-retardant coating; and

d) said article having an Underwriter Laboratories very thin material (VTM) vertical burn test rating of zero and a surface resistance of less than one ohm/sq.

17. An article as in Claim 16 wherein said conductive metal coating includes two layers of said conductive metal disposed on either side of a dielectric layer.

18. A method of forming a flame-retardant conductive polymeric fabric article comprising:

a) providing a fabric comprising a woven or non-woven polymeric material;

b) applying a flame-retardant coating directly onto a surface of said fabric; and

c) applying a conductive metal onto the surface of the flame-retardant coating.

19. A method as in Claim 18 comprising applying a quantity of said flame-retardant to provide a layer about one mil thick on one side of the fabric and the article having an Underwriter Laboratories very thin material (VTM) vertical burn test rating of zero and a surface resistance of less than one ohm/sq.

20. A method as in Claim 19 comprising vapor depositing said conductive metal onto the surface of said flame-retardant layer.